

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 are pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim, and Claim 8 being cancelled.

It is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 8-15 have allowable subject matter and remain objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enokido et al. (U.S. Pat. No.5,461,672) in view of Nagai (U.S. Pat. No.5,369,788), further in view of Hansen et al. (U.S. Pat. No.6,370,362), and further in view of Gventer (U.S. Pat. No.6,785,565).

Claims 1, 9 and 12-13 are amended. No new subject matter is presented.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of original Claim 8, which depends directly on Claim 1. Amended Claim 1 is deemed allowable.

Art Unit: 2617
PATENT
Application No. 10/725,785
(P10748)

Attorney Docket 678-1132

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-7 and 9-15, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written in a cursive style.

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